



**MDOC**

Week ending  
Feb. 10, 2012

# *From the Field*

Conserving Maine's Special Places for Maine People

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

The Maine Department of Conservation is on the move on multiple fronts.

In the area of merger, the consolidation of the Maine departments of agriculture and conservation into a new department of agriculture, conservation and forestry is before the Legislature. The plan is to retain all existing bureaus and programs in a one-to-one transaction.

There also is a proposal for parts of the State Planning Office – land use planning, coastal studies and Land for Maine's Future – to be brought on board. We already have very similar programs in LURC, geological services and public lands, respectively.

LURC reform legislation proposes a broader mission statement for the agency and the retention of a statewide LURC board and staff, all with greater focus on local and regional input and representation on the LURC board.

Meanwhile, our core programs are going strong, and we can be proud of what we have accomplished. Onward and upward!

Best wishes,

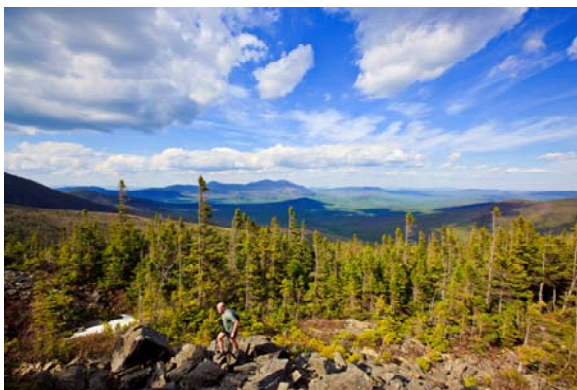
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William H. Beardsley".

Bill Beardsley  
Commissioner  
Maine Department of Conservation



## **Two Federal Grants Announced for Maine Forest Projects**

Federal grants totaling \$8.73 million have been awarded to the Maine Department of Conservation (MDOC) and will be used to conserve two unique forest properties in Franklin County



Crocker Mt., Carrabassett Valley  
(Monkman/Ecophotography photo)

Most of the grant money from the U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program (FLP) – a sum of \$7 million -- will allow the MDOC to purchase 11,800 acres on Crocker Mountain in the town of Carrabassett Valley. The lands are part of an existing working forest owned by Plum Creek. They include, in addition to working timberlands, important ecological and recreational features, including a segment of the Appalachian Trail, and opportunities for ATV and mountain biking trails that will complement and support the already robust recreation opportunities in the area.

This project was ranked as third for the nation by FLP for federal fiscal year 2012. The total project cost is \$8.8 million.

The second Maine FLP award, \$1.73 million for the Orbeton Stream project in Madrid Township, will allow the State to purchase a conservation easement of more than 5,808 acres of family-owned timber lands, ensuring continued use of the property as a working forest, protecting important natural resources, and continuing public access.



Orbeton Stream, Madrid Township (The Trust for Public Land photo)

The property, owned by Linkletter Timberlands LLC of Athens, supplies wood fiber to Linkletter's pellet mill in Athens. The total project cost is \$2.4 million. It was ranked 12th nationally officials said.

Maine is the only state to have received two FLP grants.

The Crocker Mountain land, near the Sugarloaf ski resort, has exceptional economic, natural resource, and recreational value for the state. At almost 11,800 acres, it is the largest remaining working forest in the Carrabassett Valley. Franklin County has the highest percentage of workers in the forest products industry in Maine, meaning that jobs will be protected as a result of the acquisition.

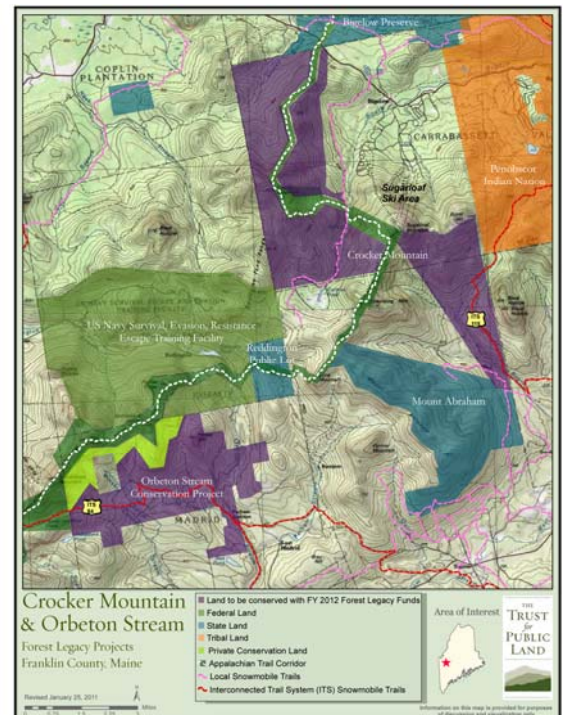
The land buffers a spectacular 10-mile section of the Appalachian Trail, and includes about three miles on snowmobile Route 115 of Maine's Interconnected Trail System (ITS), along with four miles of the state-sanctioned all-terrain vehicle trail system. Protecting the property from development also will guarantee access for other recreation, such as hunting, hiking, mountain biking, and cross country skiing.

Hiking, biking and skiing opportunities already are developed at Sugarloaf, the Town of Carrabassett Valley, the MDOC's Bigelow Preserve, and Western Mountains Foundation Hut to Hut system. New trails envisioned for this property will support the local recreational economy by making this area an even more desirable recreation destination.

BPL will pursue sustainable timber harvesting on the property, which will maintain local jobs and provide revenue for the bureau. With FLP funding now secured for Crocker Mountain, partners will look to raise the required 25 percent non-federal match to protect the property.

The Orbeton Stream property is owned and managed by Linkletter Timberlands LLC, a local family-run timber company that uses the fiber to supply its pellet mill, Maine's largest, directly supporting 40 employees. The company also supplies fiber throughout Franklin County and pellets throughout the region, including to the Jackson Laboratory biomass furnace. Protecting the 5,808-acre property will keep these state's forests in timber production and also ensure access for outdoor recreation.

The Orbeton property provides views of the Appalachian Trail and also includes a critical 6.4-mile section of snowmobile Route 84 of Maine's ITS system, which will now be available permanently for public use.



Purple areas on the map indicate the two land projects (map/The Trust for Public Land)

## Maine Accepts 140-plus Acres of Huber Land Donation

MDOC Commissioner Bill Beardsley, acting on behalf of Gov. Paul LePage, and Doug Denico, Maine Forest Service (MFS) director, representing the Baxter State Park Authority, both took part on Thursday, Jan. 12, in a special ceremony at the Hall of Flags in Augusta recognizing the donation of more than 140 acres of land to the park by Huber Resources Corp. and the Huber family.



Commissioner Beardsley (left to right) and Director Denico accept a framed photo of the donated land from Sherry Huber, Peter Triandafillou, vice president, Huber Resources LLC, and Robert Currie, vice president, chief communications and public affairs officer, J.M. Huber Corp. (Huber photo)

The Huber parcel is located on the southeastern tip of Katahdin Lake. It was one of only two remaining privately owned tracts of land along its shores following a series of transactions in 2006 that added more than 4,000 acres around the lake to Baxter State Park.

The parcel includes the lake's outlet stream, acres of mature forest, and a sand beach offering full views of Mt. Katahdin, Maine's highest mountain, located 3 miles across the lake.

Director Denico formally signed the agreement accepting the unique gift for the State of Maine. Sherry Huber, family representative, and company officials also were present for the special occasion.

During his comments on behalf of the Governor, Commissioner Beardsley noted that the Huber parcel "should be seen as a fulcrum in strategic thinking about Maine's 21st century natural-resource economy."

## BPL Accepts Brooksville Parcel

The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands last month gratefully accepted a small, but significant donation from Maine resident, John H. Ashmore, which transforms the boundaries of a Maine state park.

Ashmore donated the half-acre parcel on which he now lives in Harborside, Brooksville, and which abuts Holbrook Island Sanctuary. The property will transfer after his passing. The donation helps close up and expand the park boundaries. In particular, the Fresh Pond trailhead begins on his property, and the donation will make the trailhead more accessible to visitors.

Ashmore has some deep Maine state park roots. Both his parents, Arthur H. Ashmore Jr. and Effie Ashmore, worked for the Maine park system for almost 20 years. Arthur was a ranger and park manager at Rangeley, Mt. Blue and Cobscook state parks, while Effie was park receptionist at Rangeley and Cobscook.

One of the lesser known state parks, Holbrook Island Sanctuary is a scenic, natural area that includes forests, rocky shores and an offshore island. An area of varied ecosystems, the park offers opportunities for hiking, swimming, fishing, watching birds and wildlife, picnicking, and snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in winter. It also includes a launch area for canoes and kayaks.



John Ashmore (second from left) displays a certificate of appreciation from BPL for his land donation. He is joined by Commissioner Beardsley (left), Dave Rodrigues, BPL senior planner, and Kathy Eickenberg, BPL deputy director.

Thank you very much, Mr. Ashmore!



## Bark-Peeling Effort Shows No Sign of Invasive Insect

The Maine Forest Service last month finished up its bark-peeling project to look for evidence of the highly dangerous invasive insect, emerald ash borer (EAB). The results were just what MFS entomologists were hoping for. After participating in two workshops on Jan. 17 and Jan. 24 and peeling 52 logs, a group of 40 volunteer bark-peelers found no tell-tale signs of the harmful EAB that is threatening Maine's forests.



An MPBN video crew records some of the bark-peeling workshop action for a future program.

Seven landowners from central Maine, who earlier this year created tree traps to look for EAB brought wood samples to the two workshops to be peeled by volunteers and examined for signs of the dangerous insect. Earlier this year, MFS entomologists had asked land owners to volunteer to make tree traps for EAB by girdling a tree, or stripping bark from around an ash tree. Girdling the tree causes the tree to become stressed and release chemicals attractive to the EAB.

The tree-girdling project grew out of the efforts of the Black Ash Task Force, a collaboration of MFS, University of Maine, Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance and the U.S. Forest Service. The 40 volunteers

who took part in the two workshops included the landowners, MFS foresters,

members of the Penobscot Nation, and other task force representatives.

EAB, which has not been found in Maine, has killed millions of ash trees across the nation and threatens all of Maine's ash resource, from individual ash shade trees in yards and lining town streets to stands of white, green and black ash in the forests. The invasive insect has been found in New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Maryland, and the Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

Some treatment is possible to prolong the life of affected trees, but in general, after a tree is infested by the beetle, it dies. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 25 million trees in the U.S. have been affected by the emerald ash borer.

For more information about EAB, go to: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/InvasiveThreats.htm>

## MFS Forest Rangers Support Invasive Insect Survey

For decades, Maine's forest rangers have been protecting Maine's forests from fires, timber theft, litter and damage to forest roads. Now they are leading the charge to protect Maine's ash trees from EAB (see previous story).

Between February and April, the MFS forest rangers will start the first phase of a statewide EAB survey for the placement later this spring and summer of 955 purple insect traps on ash trees throughout the state. The forest rangers will use the National Incident Command System and the latest in GPS/data collection technology to organize their efforts.

The survey is part of a national effort coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Inspection Service (USDA APHIS). MFS and the Maine Department of Agriculture (MeAg) support this effort and will be responsible for executing the survey within Maine.

Forest rangers already have started contacting forest landowners in sample areas to request permission to place the purple EAB traps in selected ash trees later this spring. The rangers will use the GPS mapping program in their data collection



MFS Entomologist Colleen Teerling, project organizer, checks a peeled ash log for signs of EAB.

devices to locate the sample area. Once they are in the sample area, they will seek out a suitable ash tree for the survey. Then they will temporarily mark the tree with flagging and a plastic zip tie and contact the landowner. The process is not much different from searching out wildfires caused by lighting. Maine's forest rangers have the skills, equipment and dedication to get the first phase of this significant project done.

The goal of MFS and MeAg is to identify infestations of EAB early on, before they become widespread. The earlier this beetle is found, the easier it will be to control and lessen its impact on the environment and the economy.

The survey sites have been pre-selected, so there is no need for landowners to contact the MFS to offer survey sites on their property. There are a number of ways, however, that landowners can help out:

- If asked, please let the forest rangers set up these insect traps on your property;
- Educate yourself on the signs and symptoms of EAB. To learn more and report a find, go to [www.maine.gov/eab](http://www.maine.gov/eab)
- Don't move firewood. The majority of new EAB infestations are caused by infested firewood being moved to new locations. Learn more at [www.maine.gov/firewood](http://www.maine.gov/firewood)
- Talk to your friends and family about EAB and the survey.



Two MFS forest rangers record the location and mark a suitable host ash tree. Later this spring, a purple insect trap will be placed just beneath the host tree's crown as part of the statewide Emerald Ash Borer Survey.

### MFS Begins Down East Survey for Invasive Insect

A MFS survey crew has begun to hunt for signs of hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect already hurting trees along southern coastal Maine, on Mount Desert Island. Concerned that the insect is spreading Down East, MFS staff is looking for evidence of HWA on roadside hemlock trees particularly in the villages of Pretty Marsh and Seal Harbor, in the town of Mount Desert.

The crew also will work with national park and U.S. Forest Service staff to survey in Acadia National Park before moving on to other areas of the island and coastal Waldo, Hancock and Washington counties.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

The invasive insect was reported last year at two sites on the island, as well as at a new site in January in Alfred, suggesting that the insect population is moving both inland and up Maine's coast.

Hemlock woolly adelgid is a small, aphid-like insect that is covered with white, waxy wool-like material. This wool-like covering makes the insect resemble miniature cotton balls. It is most visible from late-October through July, with woolly masses located on the undersides of the twigs at the bases of the needles. The insect begins its egg-laying in March.

The insect, which came from Japan in the 1950s, causes infested trees to have off-color needles, often with a grayish cast, premature needle drop and twig dieback, and eventually, mortality. HWA has been found in at least 16 states. In Maine, it was first discovered in the forest in Kittery in 2003 and now has spread up the coast. The invasive insect has been found at three state parks, Ferry Beach State Park in 2008, Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park in Freeport in 2010, and Vaughan Woods State Park in South Berwick, also in 2010.

HWA populations can be reduced by clipping infested branches or hosing them off with water periodically from April through July; through biological control using predator beetles, as has been done in Maine state parks; and through chemical control with the application of pesticide consistent with label directions. Chemical control is generally necessary to maintain the appearance and health of infested ornamental hemlocks.

At the same time of the Mount Desert Island survey, MFS staff will conduct an annual survey of towns bordering known, infested communities, Kanoti said. Infested hemlocks in forested settings already have been found in 31 towns in York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc and Lincoln counties. Following the Mount Desert Island survey, the MFS crew will begin examination of hemlock in the three eastern coastal counties.

Maine residents who think they have found evidence of hemlock woolly adelgid can call or email the Maine Forest Service at: (207) 287-3147 or [forestinfo@maine.gov](mailto:forestinfo@maine.gov)

A new report on hemlock woolly adelgid management in northern New England is available at:  
<http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/documents/HWAS-T-SFinalReport.pdf>

Maine residents also can take the challenge on the Gulf of Maine Research Institutes Vital Signs Website: <http://vitalsignsme.org/mission-hemlock-woolly-adelgid>

For more information about the Maine Forest Service and hemlock woolly adelgid, go to:  
<http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/index.shtml> and <http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/HemlockWoollyAdelgid.htm>

### **Maine Bug Watch is on the Lookout**

Just when you thought we had covered all the bug news in Maine, here's some information about Maine Bug Watch, a collaboration between MeAg and MFS to fight invasive insects in Maine. Maine Bug Watch wants to be a resource for anyone in Maine interested in learning about the new and emerging plant and forest pests that threaten our forests.

Maine Bug Watch has a dandy, new Facebook page that provides information and updates about infestations and also lists upcoming events to engage all Maine bug watchers in the effort to protect Maine fields and forests. You can find the Facebook page here, so please "like" it: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Maine-Bug-Watch/286814954695063?ref=ts>



By the way, the Maine Bug Watch and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection also want you to know about National Invasive Species Week, coming up Feb. 26-March 3. All three departments will hold a number of events throughout the week to highlight the issue of invasive species – both plant and insect life, ranging from milfoil to emerald ash borer – and the threat they hold for Maine.

The fight to protect our state's natural resources very much is dependent on the support of all residents in Maine, and we know you all care. Please keep an eye out for our upcoming announcement!

### **Kennebec Woodland Partnership Releases Woodland Owner Survey**

The Kennebec Woodland Partnership is a county-based initiative launched in 2009 to provide tools and strategies to help landowners make informed decisions about their woodlands and ensure a sustainable future for the county's forests. The 12 partners include the Maine Forest Service.

The partnership's 2011 Kennebec Woodland Owners Survey, conducted by the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests - Family Forest Program, School of Forest Resources, University of Maine, has been published and offers an interesting



look at woodland owners in the region. A total of 903 questionnaires were sent out, with a 45 percent response rate (393 returns).

Some highlights include:

- 66.5 percent of woodland owners own between 1-50 acres of forest land, have owned their parcel(s) for more than 27 years (average), live on their woodland (74.9 percent), and are between the ages of 51-75 years old (68.3 percent); about 81 percent male, 19.4 percent female;
- The top three reasons why local woodland owners own forest land are: “Part of my primary home” (62.3 percent), “To enjoy beauty or scenery” (60.3 percent), and “For privacy” (60.9 percent). Only 15.5 percent of participants own land “For production of saw logs, pulpwood, biomass, or other timber products.”
- About 74 percent of respondents don’t have a written forest management plan, but 66.5 percent of these individuals would either consider getting one or are undecided. Asked what would encourage them to acquire a management plan, 51.7 percent said getting “a property tax reduction,” 37.2 percent, finding “ways to improve wildlife,” and 31.4 percent, getting “professional advice about how to improve my land.”
- 51.2 percent have conducted a commercial timber harvest on their woodland at sometime; 74.6 percent were “somewhat” to “very satisfied” with the outcome, 60 percent of these individuals said that they would be willing to conduct another commercial harvest; 16.2 percent were either “somewhat” to “very unsatisfied”;
- **67.6 percent said they preferred getting information about their forest land from the Maine Forest Service;** forester or other natural resource professional, 67.3 percent; Cooperative Extension professional, 45.5 percent.



The full report can be found at:

[http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/kennebecwoodlands/downloads/documents/final\\_kwos\\_technical\\_report.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/kennebecwoodlands/downloads/documents/final_kwos_technical_report.pdf)

### Schools, Communities Get Free Trees

As reported in an earlier newsletter, a generous donation from Dutton’s Nursery in Morrill enabled Project Canopy, under the Maine Forest Service, to offer municipalities, schools and other groups a different type of tree-planting opportunity this past fall.



The nursery decided to close its retail operations at the end of the 2011 season this year, but rather than wholesaling all the remaining stock, the owners decided to give back to the communities that had supported their business over the years by donating trees to Project Canopy.

The final details of the donation are now available. A total of 61 towns and organizations received the trees, which amounted to 1,083 trees with a total value of \$320,314, a very generous gift indeed! MFS volunteers also helped to sort and load all the trees for delivery around Maine.

The trees included a variety of species and have been planted in communities and at schools across the state to beautify campuses and neighborhoods, increase wildlife habitat and shade in public parks, and reduce the amount of pollutants in Maine’s air and water.

A big thanks goes out to Dutton’s Nursery and all the MFS volunteers!

## Acting LURC Director Sworn into Office

Samantha Horn Olsen, former division planning manager, has been sworn in as acting director for the Land Use Regulation Commission.

Gov. Paul LePage made the appointment, and Horn Olsen was sworn into office last month during a brief ceremony in Commissioner Beardsley's office. The oath was administered by Gale Ross, administrative assistant and Dedimus Justice.

Horn Olsen has a background in natural resources policy and planning and worked for a variety of public, non-profit and private entities, with a particular focus on conflict resolution. She will lead the organization that currently has 19 staff members. Horn Olsen replaces Catherine Carroll, LURC director for the past 10 years, who has become a senior planner for the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands.

The Land Use Regulation Commission is charged with land use planning, zoning and permitting throughout its jurisdiction -- more than 10.4 million acres of Unorganized Territories across Maine.



Gale Ross (left), Dedimus Justice, swears in Samantha Horn Olsen as acting LURC director, with Commissioner Beardsley.

## LURC Staff Improves Customer Service

Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) staff members are working to improve customer service for anyone who wants a permit in Maine's Unorganized Territories (UT) under LURC's jurisdiction. Two projects are worth highlighting, as they are expected to both simplify and shorten wait time for customers.

The library of LURC application forms is being revised and updated for easier processing for both residents and businesses, whether you want to add a porch, develop a commercial-grade wind project, expand a store or build a road. Some 30 forms for a variety of project types are being shortened, combined and made easier to understand by removing unnecessary questions and clarifying others. Ten updated applications -- geared toward the more popular construction projects -- will be finished in advance of the upcoming construction season, according to the staff.



Anyone who wants help with a LURC application can call LURC staffers, who will help identify the correct application to use and walk the customer through the process. The updated applications can be found at: <http://www.state.me.us/doc/lurc/forms.shtml>

LURC also maintains two monthly reports on the status of applications. They are:

- Weekly Report of Permitting Applications Received and Accepted for Processing: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/lurc/reports/rptReceivedAccepted.html>
- Monthly Signed Permits -- a list of the permits issued by LURC: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/lurc/reports/MonthlySignedPermits.html>

The second project is to make all permitting files digital for efficiency and quick response to customer questions. These files -- many of them going back 40 years to the beginning of LURC and located at the various regional offices -- are being organized and standardized so customers don't have to wait as long for answers. The scanning project also will allow for better analysis of permitting issues that come before the Commission. While all newly issued permits are saved electronically, about 60 percent of all historic building permit files and all zoning petitions so far have been completed, according to the staff.



If you have any questions about your LURC application, please call for more information at: (207) 287-2631 or any regional office.

### **Maine Cooperative Snow Survey Under Way**

The Maine Cooperative Snow Survey, conducted annually to help determine potential spring flooding with the development of flood forecasting models, got started in early January and is continuing this month and even into April, as long as the snowpack exists.

The cooperative snow survey, which measures the snowpack at 80 to 90 sites around Maine at this time of year, has been conducted annually for several decades. The snowpack data is shared with the Maine Emergency Management Agency and county emergency officials and also among Maine hydroelectric companies so they know how much water to hold or release in Maine's lakes and reservoirs.

The collaborative survey team consists of 13 organizations, including three divisions under the Maine Department of Conservation, including MGS, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway under the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, and the Maine Forest Service.

The other lead agencies are the U. S. Geological Survey-Maine Water Science Center and the Maine Emergency Management Agency. The other team members are the National Weather Service, Caribou and Gray offices, Poland Spring Water Co., several hydroelectric companies, and even two Maine high schools. Information from New Hampshire and the Canadian provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick also is used.

Using calibrated hollow tubes, surveyors take samples of the snow in prescribed locations. The survey determines snowpack depth and density, as well as water content, and snowpack maps are prepared. Robert Johnston, MGS senior geologist, compiles the data and prepares the maps, which are available on line.



Bob Johnston, MGS senior geologist, demonstrates snowpack measuring (file photo).

In early March, data collection will go to once a week to track more closely the snowpack conditions leading to the spring melt.

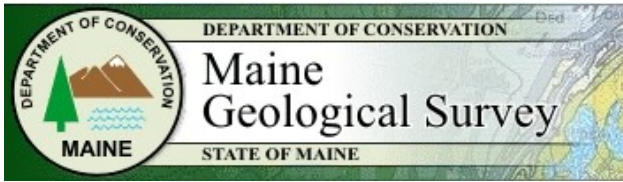
Interested people can sign up to receive an email alert when snow survey maps are posted or updated by going to: [http://www.maine.gov/rfac/rfac\\_snow.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/rfac/rfac_snow.shtml)

For more Information about the Maine Cooperative Snow Survey, go to: [http://www.maine.gov/rfac/rfac\\_snow\\_about.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/rfac/rfac_snow_about.shtml)

For more information about how the snowpack is measured, go to: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mgs/explore/hazards/flood/sites/feb97.htm>

### **MGS Works on Portland Resiliency Study**

The City of Portland has engaged with the Maine Geological Survey to conduct a vulnerability assessment of the city's built and natural environments to storm surge and potential sea level rise. This project is part of a larger, ongoing Coastal Hazard Resiliency Tools Project, funded by the Maine Coastal Program, which has worked with 10 coastal communities in southern Maine to help increase the resiliency of these communities to existing and potential future coastal hazards. This project uses a unique, partnership development approach to proactive community engagement, with a focus on local decision-making and on-the-ground efforts.



The specific goal of the vulnerability assessment was to pinpoint potentially vulnerable habitat and infrastructure to storms and sea level rise. The results of this assessment were meant to provide a baseline for further discussion of developing local, actionable, adaptation strategies that could be considered by the city in dealing with today's storms and tomorrow's potential tides.

With feedback from city staff throughout the process, MGS Marine Geologist Peter Slovinsky used available Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) topographic data to simulate the potential impacts of several different sea level rise scenarios. This followed a "scenario-based approach" in looking at a range of potential sea level rise scenarios by the year 2100 and their impacts on existing and potential future tidal-driven flooding and the historic February 1978 storm event (the "100 year" storm, or the storm that has a 1-percent chance of occurring in any given year).

Slovinsky will provide a summary presentation on the assessment's initial findings to Portland's Transportation, Sustainability, and Energy Committee on Wednesday, Feb. 15. This work will tie closely with and further Portland's ongoing efforts at developing appropriate adaptation strategies for dealing with today's storm surges and the potential impacts of storms and higher sea levels in the future.

### Maine State Parks Kick Off Successful Winter Events

BPL's participation in January in the nationwide "First Day Hikes" initiative was very successful, despite the freezing New Year's Eve rain in northern Maine that affected one planned hike. More than 235 people took part in four "First Day Hikes" held on New Year's Day, Sunday, Jan. 1, at four different state parks. Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park reported that more than 500 people visited the ocean-front park, and the Popham Beach hike drew very enthusiastic visitors.

So successful was the statewide event that Maine's First Day Hikes are planned to be held again next year and will become the annual kick-off for all park winter events.

To date, three other Winter Family Fun Day events, under BPL's "Take It Outside" initiative, have been held, all with good attendance. The annual Youth Ice Fishing Derby at Lake St. George drew 200 visitors, with 91 youngsters registering for the ice fishing. Cobscook Bay reported more than 200 visitors as well and featured a K-9 demonstration by the Maine Warden Service. Mt. Blue, with the most beautiful outdoor skating rink in Maine, had about 500 visitors enjoying all the outdoor fun.



Snowmobile-tote riders at Cobscook Bay State Park have fun. More than 200 visitors enjoyed the Winter Family Fun day.

There are two more events coming up, so put them on your calendar!

- **Kids' Ice Fishing Derby, 8 a.m. to 12 noon, Saturday, Feb. 18, Range Ponds State Park, Poland Spring;**
- **Winter Family Fun Day, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 25, Aroostook State Park, Presque Isle.**

And keep in mind **the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend**, when there will be all kinds of terrific events taking place all over the state! Some of those events, including snowshoe hikes, nature walks and a winter clam dig, are occurring at four Maine state parks – Androscoggin Riverlands, Bradbury Mountain, Mount Blue, and Wolfe's Neck Woods state parks. You can find the park event listing here: [www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com)

And all the weekend events here: <http://greatmaineoutdoorweekend.org/>

## Maine State Parks Partners with Maine Businesses to Promote Winter Recreation

BPL recently launched the Maine State Parks Ski & Snowshoe Trailer, a new initiative to promote cross country skiing and snowshoe use at Maine state parks. The success of this project is an example of what can be accomplished when several groups work together to attain a goal.



The new Maine State Parks Ski & Snowshoe Trailer at Mt. Blue State Park for a Winter Family Fun Day.

Maine taxpayers a penny. The trailer allows park staff to mobilize the equipment, and when the trailer arrives at a state park, they are ready to outfit more than 110 people with winter recreation gear. The trailer has made several park appearances already and is a big success.

A special shout-out thanks goes out to L.L.Bean, Healthy Hometowns, Wicked Joe Coffee Roasting Co., Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, Park Manager Bruce Farnham, Park Maintenance Coordinator Terence Donahue, Park Ranger Jason Cuthbertson, Assistant Regional Park Manager Gary Best and all the park staff who are helping to make this wonderful program such a success. Look for the new trailer at upcoming park events!

The momentum for this project began when the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund partially funded a grant application in the amount of \$5,100; then Healthy Hometowns, a program of Maine Winter Sports Center, came on board and sold to the bureau 67 pair of cross country skis, bindings, boots and poles at a discount rate. Healthy Hometowns also provided two training sessions for BPL staff and volunteers. Wicked Joe Coffee Roasting Co. provided more than \$4,000 in support of this project; and the icing on the cake came when L.L.Bean, our favorite Maine iconic retailer, very generously donated 44 pairs of snowshoes.

The result of this collaboration is a 12-foot-long, enclosed trailer that houses all the equipment and didn't cost



Mt. Blue State Park visitors make use of the great rec equipment and new trailer provided by MSP partners.

## Boating Facilities Division Seeks Input from Boaters

The BPL's Boating Facilities Division is asking boaters what they think about the work being done on their behalf on Maine's lakes, ponds and rivers. The division plans on using the results from three surveys to help set priorities and direct limited state funds to where they are most needed.



Using a BPL boat ramp.

The division has two primary functions: to acquire and develop property for public boat access sites; and to administer the Navigational Aids Program, a nationwide, uniform waterway marking system.

Boaters are being asked to fill out the surveys, which can be found through a link on the division's home web page. One survey seeks to get feedback on boaters' satisfaction with the conditions of the boating access sites maintained by the division. A second survey seeks feedback on the navigational aids marking program. The third survey seeks input from boaters on where they feel additional boat access is needed and where existing facilities need improvement.

These surveys are conducted using Survey Monkey, which will provide the results of each survey as well as summary information to the division. There is no end date for the surveys.



The Boating Facilities Division also plans to distribute self-addressed, postage-paid survey cards to users of division-maintained boat sites and lakes marked by the division with navigational aids. The link to the surveys is here: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/boating/surveys.html>

### **Maine Conservation Corps Welcomes New Educators**

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC), under BPL, recently welcomed 15 environmental educators to serve at non-profit and state organizations throughout Maine, including six returning members who previously served with either the MCC Field Team or Environmental Educator programs.



2012 host sites include the Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands, the Maine Energy Education Program, and Portland Trails. In addition, the MCC recently selected five members to participate in the MCC Field Team's 2012 Trail Training Academy, which will start in late February.

The MCC currently is recruiting for positions to start in the spring, including team leaders, team members and environmental educators. As part of the Maine Department of Conservation, the MCC's four-fold mission is to: accomplish conservation projects, create conservation employment, provide conservation education, and engage conservation volunteers.

More information can be found on the MCC's website: [www.maine.gov/doc/parks/mcc](http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/mcc).

### **BPL Photo Used for Digital Museum Bookmark**

The Maine Memory Network is making use of a unique photograph to help promote the unique digital museum. The photo, from BPL's Katahdin Ironworks Collection, shows Sarah Green of Katahdin Ironworks holding a rifle and standing next to a hanging, dressed bear.

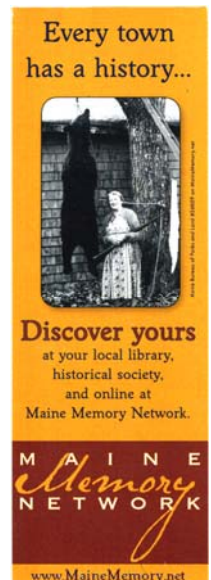
Sarah Green posed with the bear shot by a hunter. The animal weighed 250 pounds dressed, and the photo was taken by Roland Wells Robbins in October 1966. The photo was chosen to be transformed into an attractive bookmark that has been distributed to all 270 Maine libraries as part of the organization's library-awareness campaign. The Maine Memory Network is a collaboration of the Maine Historical Society with 250-plus organizations across the state.

More about the Maine Memory Network and the library-awareness campaign can be found at: [www.MaineMemory.net](http://www.MaineMemory.net) and at: [www.mainememory.net/libraries](http://www.mainememory.net/libraries)

You can find all the photographs contributed by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands by following this link below. The photographs include early shots of Fort Knox (1862 to 1920s), the Katahdin Ironworks 1966 restoration, photos of important colonial artifacts, and a truly fascinating picture of Admiral Robert E. Peary's family on board a ship in Greenland. Peary's summer home, Eagle Island, is a Maine state historic site.

Here's the BPL photo link:

[http://www.mainememory.net/search/more?object\\_owner=Maine%20Bureau%20of%20Parks%20and%20Lands](http://www.mainememory.net/search/more?object_owner=Maine%20Bureau%20of%20Parks%20and%20Lands)



### **Computerized Router Improves Park Signage**

Bill Elliot, park manager at Camden Hills State Park, has been hard at work learning the ins and outs of the new, computerized routing machine that makes signs and other wood-carving items for use at Maine state parks. The machine not only will make it easier and faster to make signs, but it also will vastly improve the quality of state park signage and the face we put out there for the public.

The “ShopBot,” as it is called, will rout and carve intricate designs into wood, plastic, rubber sheets, and even metal using a basic desktop PC. For example, it can carve the National Park Service icons for hiking, picnicking, etc., into long-lasting wooden signs. The machine does this with great accuracy and precision and in a fraction of the time it once took to do this by hand.

Using wood harvested on BPL lands and then sliced and dried right there at the Camden Hills shop helps the BPL staff make high-quality signage at very low cost. The computerized machine, paid for out of dedicated funds, also improves employee safety.

### **BPL Chief of Planning Receives Land Trust Stewardship Award**

Katherine Eickenberg, BPL acting deputy director, has been awarded the 2011 Elliot Bates Stewardship Award by the Androscoggin Land Trust. Eickenberg also was named MDOC Manager of the Year and received the 2011 William Twarog Award in December.



Commissioner Beardsley, Katherine Eickenberg, and Will Harris, BPL director

Eickenberg, who has been BPL chief of planning since 2008, was honored by the land trust for her leadership role in planning for conservation and land stewardship along the Androscoggin River. She was recognized especially for her work on the master planning process for the Androscoggin Riverlands, now the Androscoggin Riverlands State Park, Maine’s newest state park located in Turner and Leeds.

ALT formed as a group of people who in 1987 wanted to conserve more than 1,900 acres of river frontage in Turner, plus additional frontage in Leeds, now owned and managed by BPL. The land trust became a formal, non-profit organization in 1991 and continues its conservation efforts today.

Eickenberg has 36 years experience in natural-resource planning. She received her Bachelor’s Degree in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania and her Master’s Degree in Science, focusing on water resource management, from the University of Wisconsin. Before joining the MDOC, Eickenberg was partner in a small consulting firm for 13 years and prior to that worked on agricultural policy and farmland protection with the Maine Department of Agriculture.

### **Charitable Appeal Exceeds Goal**

The Maine Department of Conservation had a very successful fund-raising campaign this year with the annual Maine State Employees Combined Charitable Appeal (MSECCA). MDOC employees contributed \$6,750 to the annual campaign – 104 percent of the department’s goal!

Funds are donated to 17 partner federations and their individual agencies throughout Maine. All campaign administrative costs are born by the appeal, rather than tax or General Fund money, and volunteers do the leg work. During the 31-year history of MSECCA, roughly \$6 million have been raised to support charitable organizations. The results for this year’s statewide campaign are expected to be finalized in the coming weeks.

The MDOC campaign was organized by Gale Ross of the Commissioner’s Office. One thing staff may not know is that you can request payroll deductions to the campaign throughout the calendar year and change your donation level or opt out at any time.

Your contributions are much appreciated and will touch thousands of lives across Maine and beyond.

